

Changes/Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 30 of page 2 of the specification with the following paragraph:

-- This sole is built up inter alia from a carrier 2 of metal or a metal alloy which supports an outer layer 3. The metal or alloy may additionally support an anodized layer, in which case the anodized layer supports the outer layer 3. This outer layer 3 forms a sliding or contact layer 3 of the sole 1. Said outer layer 3 is formed from a polymer material, in this example on the basis of polysilicate which was provided in a sol-gel process. The main chain or backbone of the polymer is inorganic; any lateral chains or branches may be organic, if so desired. The outer layer 3 is provided with markings in the form of decorative lines 4 and characters 5. The latter may form, for example, a type indication. --